

Re, Alice

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**From:** Eric V <endlessperspectiveoflife@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2015 8:08 PM  
**To:** Jacob, Dianne  
**Cc:** Eric V  
**Subject:** Stop The El Monte Sand Mine  
**Attachments:** The El Monte Valley Sand Mine Article\_s.docx

Dear Ms. Jacobs,

This morning at breakfast I read how long time farmers with the best water rights in the Central Valley of California have been told to STOP growing certain crops due to the rising severity of the drought and water crisis.

With this in mind I find it a complete absurdity that a sand mine is being planned in the El Monte community near lakeside, with an expected capacity of 18,000,000 tons of sand per day. According to the Department of Energy statistics it requires 5,000 gallons of water to clean the silt from just ONE ton of sand!

Increasing the severity of our water crisis is just one of many reasons why this sand mine will affect many residents of San Diego county in a negative way. When a vital resource for life is depleted for the profit of one company, it is a strong sign that a very serious mistake is about to be made.

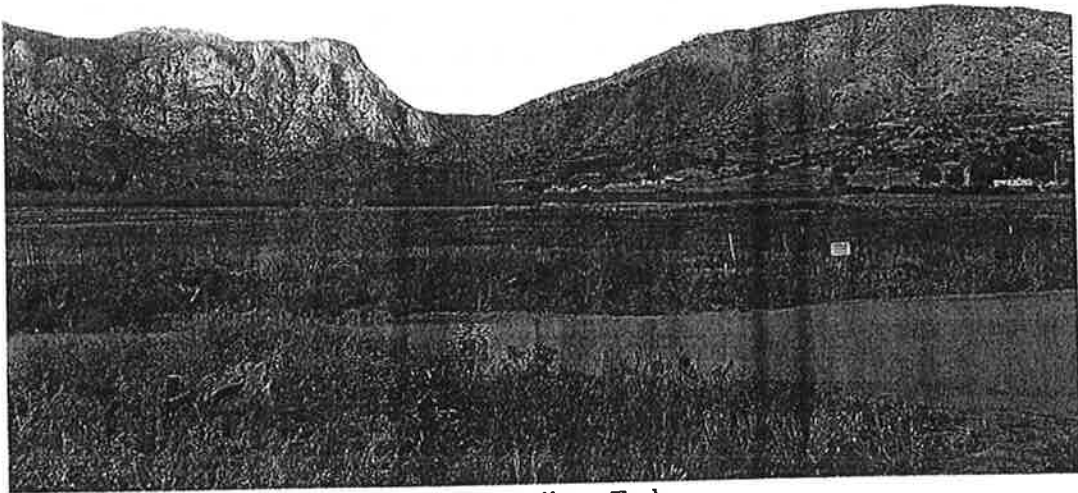
Please read the attached article I have written on this matter, and let me know how I may be of service to you in taking appropriate measures to stop this.

Sincerely,

Eric Visconti

# **The El Monte Valley Sand Mine: "Where Dollars Make No Sense"**

by Eric Visconti



El Monte Valley - Today

El Monte Valley is located near Lakeside, California east of San Diego in a historic area of natural beauty. Though this area has been labeled an "Eyesore" by a member of the Lakeside Planners Group during a recent meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> concerning a proposed sand mine, the valley is actually so beautiful that it was approved as the site of a golf resort back in 1998. The current proposal to create a sand mine amidst the people and wildlife of this community will serve to create potentially irreparable damage to the area for many years to come.

This proposal has been made by an organization based in Laguna Beach, California known as "The El Monte Nature Preserve, LLC" which is a name specifically designed not to be associated with such activities as mining. The spokesman for the organization made a presentation of the plan which was followed by an opportunity for members of the community to voice their opinions. Some of the details of this plan are as follows:

- The creation of a mine area encompassing 565 acres, nearly the length of the valley.
- The removal of local animal and plant wildlife from the mining area.
- The promise to replant 75 acres of the mine site after close of operations.
- The proposed mining production of 18 tons of sand per day.

- The proposed volume of 150-230 dump trucks each with 20-40 ton loads per day.
- The proposed depth of the main mining pit of 90 feet down, which is 50 feet lower than the current water table.
- The proposal to use water spray to keep dust levels down.
- The mining operation is proposed to last 15 years.

(15 years X 365 days X 18 million tons per day = 98.5 billion tons of sand removed!)

- Water will be used to clean silt from the sand. According to the US Department of Energy it takes 5,000 gallons of water to clean silt from one ton of sand. ([http://www.eere.energy.gov/manufacturing/resources/mining/pdfs/water\\_use\\_mining.pdf](http://www.eere.energy.gov/manufacturing/resources/mining/pdfs/water_use_mining.pdf))

**(Cleaning 98.5 billion tons of sand will consume 4.62 TRILLION gallons of water in a drought stricken area!!!)**

Concerns from residents included the effect of an average of 200 trucks per day traffic being added to a 2 lane narrow road through the valley. Not only was safety a concern, but the vibrations caused by trucks with heavy loads often show up on regional seismographs. As each truck would carry at least 20 tons of sand, and many houses are in close proximity to the road, the sheer volume of this heavy industrial traffic is expected to cause cumulative property damage.

Other concerns were raised with the enormous scope of the operation which has been reported in media to lead to the lowering of the valley floor to a depth of an additional 30 feet. The main sand pit where most mining will occur is expected to reach a depth of no more than 90 feet deep according to the EMNP spokesman. This will lower the water table beyond the reach of local wells, forcing residents to go on to city water, with no proposed compensation to help offset the enormous costs. The lowering of the water table to this extent will have unanticipated affects on vegetation in the area, leading to dryer ground conditions and a potentially much higher threat of wildfires. Finally, there is the concern of Lindo Lake. Lindo Lake is the only natural lake in the region, located on the lower end of El Monte Valley, with the higher end being occupied by the El Capitan Reservoir. Just the fact that a reservoir was built in this location testifies that this is the best nearest source of ground water flow. The massive disruption of the valley's water table by this proposed operation will almost certainly lead to the demise of Lindo Lake. Without it's lake, Lakeside will be just another small town in an arid region. Perhaps it will be renamed, "Bakeside".

Many other residents at the meeting stated a strong concern about the threat of Valley Fever from this operation, which is a serious condition caused by the continued inhalation of dust and spores from disturbed ground. This valley can be seen from many areas such as Crest, and the entire length of highway 52 east of the intersection of highway 125. With 18 million tons of sand production per day, the

dust cloud will be seen from a far greater distance, and lower the air quality for many thousands of people.

Jobs are important, but not when they mean taking away the vital resources and areas which people need to live. The financial part of the American dream can be sustained without permanently damaging the natural treasure of the American West. If the people of San Diego County do not voice their concerns over this mine, life in the county will be negatively affected in ways that have not been predicted publically. When such a precedent is set by allowing this mine to be placed in the heart of this community, other communities will suffer the same fate. We can not risk creating a nightmare in pursuit of the American Dream.



El Monte Valley - Tomorrow?

Petition from Bill Horn to Prevent the El Monte Sand Mine